

Judith from Taylor wrote me:

We did not do anything to have this horrible circumstance come our way. Both my husband and I appreciate the work you are doing but please don't give up on us. This week we received notice that our mortgage bank has started foreclosure proceedings on our home. The frustrating thing about this is, we have been trying to sell our house since February of 2009. We have had buyers who were interested [but the] bank stopped proceedings saying they wanted more money out of us. We have been waiting since April for the bank's decision on the present purchase agreement. And the only thing we have gotten from this bank is a letter of foreclosure proceedings this week. Not like we didn't have enough to contend with, our youngest son left from Ft. Campbell, KY to the war in Afghanistan on June 9th. This is a very scary and emotional time for our family. We are definitely on overload but we are just one family of millions who are experiencing how life has changed in this world. We have strong faith in the Lord and a strong belief that life will get better. I love this country but grow weary as to the direction the country is heading. Politics should not play games with the American people's lives.

That is what is happening right now. I should mention that one of the leaders in the Republican caucus has indicated that when it comes to extending tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans, we should not worry about the debt. We should not worry about paying for those. But when it comes to helping people who are out of work, then the rules ought to be different. When it comes to helping people out of work, then we should change the rules that have been in place calling it emergency spending and require something different. If 15 million people out of work isn't an emergency, I don't know.

Dawn from Hudsonville writes:

I listen daily to the radio and I have heard the lack of progress regarding unemployment. I am blessed to have a loving and generous family so my son and I won't be homeless but there will be significant upheaval. My son will graduate from high school next year (if I'm not forced to move) . . . I have done everything I can think of to continue living here; cut expenses to the bone, free lunches for my son, visits to the food pantry—so many things I never thought I would have to do. I realize the scarcity of jobs, my age (51) is a definite factor, but I honestly never imagined the depth of this recession.

Melvin from Auburn Hills:

I urge you to please encourage your peers to reconsider their vote. Personally, I am 41 years old, had a job since I was 16, and have never collected unemployment until 2009. During the past 16 months, I returned to school and I am about to take another course. I have taken any opportunity possible to work which has included three jobs that were low paying, part time, or short term, and I don't know what I will do if these extensions stop. I have already moved to Michigan to live with family because I couldn't afford rent in Illinois anymore. However, I will be forced to live under an overpass if I can't even contribute to household expenses during this difficult time in my life. It saddens me that a hardworking person like myself is lumped into a category of "losers and mooches" by the attitude of some elected officials, when my lifetime of hard work without ever receiving any unemployment (or any other government assist-

ance) should clearly identify me as a victim of what is the worst economic time in my entire adult life. I want to work and return to a job, and that is why I am doing additional schooling to make myself stand out to potential employers. In the meantime, please help folks like me sustain our modest existence. Please encourage another vote in the Senate to extend unemployment insurance benefits.

I thank Melvin for working hard and for hanging in there. That is what we do in Michigan, we work hard. If we are knocked down, we get back up, and we go back to work. The people whose letters I have shared this evening are people who are working one or two or three part-time jobs trying to hold it together. But mom and dad may have both lost their jobs. They are trying to hold it together for their families. As Melvin said:

I don't like being lumped into a category of "losers and mooches" by the attitude of some elected officials.

People in Michigan are not losers. They are not mooches. They are people who have been caught in the middle of an economic tsunami. They didn't cause it. They weren't the ones who were reckless on Wall Street who caused us to lose jobs and lose credit availability and home mortgages and pensions and 401(k)s. They were not the ones who made the decisions that got us to this point. It is critically important they not continue to pay the price.

I see our distinguished leader on the Senate floor. I thank him for his passion and commitment for people who have lost their jobs and his commitment as soon as possible to bring this up for a vote one more time. But it is very sad that we have had to get to this point where over 1 million people have already been hurt losing their unemployment benefits and others are just holding their breath about what is going to happen. We are committed to continuing to do everything we can until we can get this done—extending unemployment benefits and remaining laser focused on jobs for the American people. We will continue to do that.

But it would be very nice if somehow one more person from the other side of the aisle would step up tonight or tomorrow and we could end what has been a nightmare for millions of Americans wondering what is going to happen to themselves and their families.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that morning business be closed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT—CONFERENCE REPORT

Mr. REID. I now move to proceed to consideration of the conference report to accompany H.R. 4173.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The report will be stated.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendments of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4173) to provide for financial regulatory reform, to protect consumers and investors, to enhance Federal understanding of insurance issues, to regulate the over-the-counter derivatives markets, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the text of the bill and agree to the same with an amendment, and the Senate agree to the same, that the House recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the Senate to the title and agree to the same, signed by a majority of the conferees on the part of both Houses.

(The conference report is printed in the House proceedings of the RECORD of June 29, 2010, book II.)

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. REID. I have a cloture motion at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the clerk will report the motion to invoke cloture.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the conference report to accompany H.R. 4173, the Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

Harry Reid, Christopher J. Dodd, Charles E. Schumer, Sheldon Whitehouse, Amy Klobuchar, Thomas R. Carper, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jeff Merkley, Kay R. Hagan, John F. Kerry, Tom Harkin, Jack Reed, Frank R. Lautenberg, Mark Begich, Barbara Boxer, Mark R. Warner, Joseph I. Lieberman.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, very briefly, because the hour is late and we will have a longer time to engage in a debate about the conference report, I wish to begin this evening, as I will try to repeat during the next 2 days, with my deep appreciation to the majority leader, HARRY REID. While there were a lot of people involved in this process over the last several years who have brought us to this moment for us to consider this very important landmark piece of legislation regarding reform of our financial services, none of this ever happens unless you have a leader who makes it possible to happen.

While that is a simple enough sentence to say, there is so much that